AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for adjusting the sound volume of a digital sound recording, comprising ~~characterised in that it comprises~~:

   - ~~a step consisting of~~ determining, in absolute values, for a recording, the maximum amplitude values for sound frequencies audible for the human ear,

   - ~~a step consisting of~~ calculating the possible gain for a specified sound level setting, between the maximum amplitude value ~~determined above~~ and the maximum amplitude value for all frequencies combined,

   - ~~a step consisting of~~ reproducing the recording ~~with a sound card~~ by automatically adjusting the amplification gain level making it possible to obtain a sound level for the recording of a specified value so that it corresponds to the gain calculated for this recording.

2. (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the maximum amplitude value determination step comprises:

   - ~~a step consisting of~~ counting the number of samples of the recording with a specified amplitude, for all the amplitudes existing in the recording,

   - ~~a step consisting of~~ classifying the amplitudes of the number of samples found in increasing order,

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-        a step consisting of storing in memory the maximum amplitude, for all frequencies combined, and the amplitude, for which the order number in the classification carried out is n ranks less with reference to the rank of the maximum amplitude, the amplitude found corresponding in this case to the maximum amplitude for frequencies audible for the human ear.

3.   (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 2, wherein characterised in that n is determined so that the degradation of the reproduction quality of the recording is not perceptible to the human ear.

4.   (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 2, wherein characterised in that n is of the order of 10 and preferably equal to 4 or 5.

5.   (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that the maximum amplitude value determination step comprises:

-        a step consisting of counting the number of samples of the recording with a specified amplitude, for all the amplitudes existing in the recording,

-        a step consisting of classifying the amplitudes of the number of samples found in increasing order,

-        a step consisting of calculating the mean value A_{mean} of the n' highest amplitudes occurring at least k' times in the recording.

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6.   (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the maximum amplitude value determination step comprises:

-       ~~a step consisting of~~ compressing the recording using ~~by means of~~ at least one psycho-acoustic mask making it possible to eliminate inaudible sounds from the initial recording,

-       ~~a step consisting of~~ decompressing the recording,

-       ~~a step consisting of~~ searching the maximum amplitude on the decompressed recording, this amplitude corresponding in this case to the maximum amplitude for frequencies audible for the human ear.

7.   (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 6, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the psycho-acoustic mask is ~~mask(s) is /are~~ applied using a compression process, ~~such as MPEG-1 Layer 3 or AAO~~.

8.   (Currently Amended) Volume adjustment process according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the reproduction step comprises a dynamic reproduction sound level adjustment step on the recording including authorizing ~~consisting of authorising~~ a specified gain for the low-pitched and/or high-pitched sounds in the recording, the gain corresponding approximately to the attenuation applied during the reproduction of the recording.

9.   (Currently Amended) Automatic ~~Use of the automatic~~ volume adjustment process according to claim 1, wherein said process is provided on an audiovisual

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reproduction system <u>wherein</u> ~~characterised in that~~ the recording is stored in memory in the reproduction system with the corresponding calculated gain, and <u>further wherein an</u> audiovisual reproduction system reading means giving access to the gain value to control ~~the~~ gain circuits of <u>a</u> ~~the~~ digital signal processing processor of the digital audiovisual reproduction system to adjust the sound level accordingly.

    10. (Cancelled).